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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,150	06/30/2005	Richard D Raines	2003UR005	6370
34477	7590	05/13/2008		
Exxon Mobil Upstream Research Company P.O. Box 2189 (CORP-URC-SW 359) Houston, TX 77252-2189			EXAMINER SAFAVI, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT 3637	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/13/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/541,150

Applicant(s)

RAINES, RICHARD D

Examiner

M. Safavi

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF 298)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

It has been noted that the Transmittal Letter accompanying the instant application indicates that a substitute specification having been filed when no such substitute specification can be found within the file.

Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to under 37 CFR § 1.71 (a) because of the following informalities: reference character 50 is used to denote an installer as well as an anchor. See for example, page 8 of the disclosure.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 10-21 are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75 (c) because of the following informalities: Claim 10 appears dependent upon a subsequent claim 14 and thus, does not refer back to and further limit another claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 appears dependent upon a subsequent claim 14. It is therefore, not clear as to what claims 10-21 define particularly with claim 14 being dependent upon claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mott et al. '900. Mott et al. discloses, Figs. 1-4 an anchor system having first elongated hollow element 22 of cylindrical transverse cross-section and second elongated hollow element 20 of cylindrical transverse cross-section. The first

elongated hollow element has a closed upper end and an open lower end while the second elongated hollow element has an open upper end and an open lower end. A two-way valve is at 40A, for example with pipe end to pipe end connector, (gravity or mechanical), serving to connect the first elongated hollow element to the second elongated hollow element. An attachment device fixed to the surface of the second elongated hollow element is at 44. The two-way valve 40A can be seen attached to the closed upper end of the first elongated hollow element. A longitudinal vane can be seen at 44 or 61. Mott et al. serves to read on the language of the rejected claims as the term "releasably connected" or "releasably connecting" would read upon any connection since any item can be reduced to separate parts with appropriate manipulation.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hogervorst '641. Hogervorst discloses, Figs. 1-4, 7, and 8, an anchor installation apparatus 1, comprising: a first elongated hollow element 11/21 having a closed upper end, an open lower end, and a transverse cross section; a two-way flow valve 17, 18 located on said first elongated hollow element; a second elongated hollow element 2 having an open upper end, (through which 19 extends), an open lower end, and a transverse cross section substantially the same, (e.g., cylindrical), as that of said first hollow element; and a pipe end to pipe end connector, (as between 19 and 4), for releasably connecting said open lower end of said first elongated hollow element to said open upper end of said second elongated hollow element. Longitudinal vane is at 22.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayhall '241. Mayhall discloses, Figs. 4A and 5, an anchor installation apparatus, comprising: a first elongated hollow element 18 having a closed upper end, an open lower end, and a transverse cross section; a two-way flow valve 32, 33 located on said first elongated hollow element; a second elongated hollow element 14b having an open upper end, an open lower end, and a transverse cross section substantially the same as that of said first hollow element; and a pipe end to pipe end connector for releasably connecting said open lower end of said first elongated hollow element to said open upper end of said second elongated hollow element. Longitudinal vane is at 44.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hogervorst '641.

To have provided the Hogervorst anchor assembly and method with an offshore drilling rig assembly while further drawing hydrocarbon resources from the ocean bottom and transporting to shore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Hogervorst at for example, lines 12-18 of col. 1.

Claims 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayhall '241.

To have provided the Mayhall anchor assembly and method with an offshore drilling rig assembly while further drawing hydrocarbon resources from the ocean bottom and transporting to shore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Mayhall at for example, lines 16-18 of col. 1.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wisotsky '548.

Wisotsky discloses, Fig. 2 for example, an anchor installation apparatus, comprising: a first elongated hollow element 41 having a closed upper end, an open lower end, and a transverse cross section; a two-way flow valve 23, 62 located on said first elongated hollow element; a second elongated hollow element (seen below connector 42, 43, 48, 49), having an open upper end and an open lower end, and a transverse cross section substantially the same as that of said first hollow element; and a pipe end to pipe end connector 42, 43, 48, 49 for releasably connecting said open lower end of said first elongated hollow element to said open upper end of said second elongated hollow element. To have formed the Wisotsky pile second hollow element as an open end pile would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Wisotsky at for example, lines 28-29 of col. 5.

To have provided the Wisotsky anchor assembly and method with an offshore drilling rig assembly while further drawing hydrocarbon resources from the ocean bottom and transporting to shore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made as taught by Wisotsky at for example, lines 23-30 of col. 1. Wisotsky serves to read on the language of the rejected claims as the term "releasably connected" or "releasably connecting" would read upon any connection since any item can be reduced to separate parts with appropriate manipulation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7046. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/M. Safavi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637

M. Safavi
May 07, 2008